should be taken into confidence, that in the Eighth Plan there was a promised allocation of Rs. 700 crores. But all that was given to the Central Government was Rs. 290 crores. Now, in the present year 1998-99, we have asked for Rs. 100 crores, but we expect Rs. 80 crores are going to be allocated. Therefore, due to budgetary constraints we cannot extend the benefit of the Mega City Scheme to other cities much as we would like to.

SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: My second question is whether I can take it from the answer of the hon. Minister that the upgradation of the mega cities is merely dependent on population. I would like to know whether there is any plan for extending such facilities to other cities of the country.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Yes. I have just indicated that our Ministry would like to extend the scheme to many other cities. But unfortunately there are budgetary constraints. We are asking for more funds. I hope some more funds will become available and with funds becoming available, we will certainly extend this scheme. But it depends on the initiative of the State Governments also. The State Governments must tell us which cities in their opinion claim priority so that we could first extend this scheme primarily to them. But the State Governments must apply their mind to it and, I think, once they do it and make recommendations to us, they will be very seriously and respectfully considered.

SHRI K.M. KHAN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that the population of Hyderabad is more than five million. He has said in his reply that Hyderabad is included in the mega cities and certain financial assistance would be given to the employees of Hyderabad city also as that of the employees of other mega cities. I would like to know from the hon. Minister when these benefits will be extended to the employees of Hyderabad city under the Mega City Scheme.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, I am afraid there is again some misunderstanding. Hyderabad is already one of the mega cities and whatever benefits are to be given to the mega cities, are being extended to Hyderabad also under the existing scheme. Please don't confuse the mega city with the "A-1" status which has now been accorded to Chennai and Calcutta along with Delhi and Mumbai.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Kanpur is a mega city or not. The population of Kanpur has already exceeded four million. There are absolutely no infrastructure facilities. What are his views in this regard?

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, I must admit that when we draw these distinctions, they have to be arbitrary to some extent. If you change the figure from four million to two million, naturally more cities will fall under the mega scheme. But arbitrarily somebody has done it in the past. Still, I don't see any reason for reviewing it unless our budget constraints are removed. If any suggestion comes from anybody, it would be considered very seriously.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Augmenting Employment Opportunities

*64. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to augment employment opportunities in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) Yes, Sir. A new scheme "Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana" (SJSRY) has been launched on 1-12-1997.

(b) The SJSRY seeks to rationalise all urban poverty initiatives in the country. While providing opportunities for self and wage employment, the scheme gives a special impetus to empowering and uplifting the urban poor women through a special programme titled "Development of Women and Children" (DWAC) under which groups of urban poor women setting up self-employment ventures are eligible for a subsidy of upto 50% of the project cost or Rs. 1,25,000 whichever is less. Special

incentives are also being given for organising Thrift & Credit societies and creation of missing infrastructure and basic minimum services in urban poor/slum areas, through provision of wage employment.

Non-Utilisation of Funds for the Welfare of SCs and STs

*65. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the non-utilisation of funds allocated to different States for the welfare of SCs and STs under the Centrally sponsored schemes during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the reasons advanced for non-utilisation and the steps taken to ensure proper and timely utilisation of the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statements enclosed. (*See* below statement I and II)

(c) Most of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes relate to construction of hostels and ashram schools. In view of the time required for acquisition of land, finalization of tenders and execution of work, all such works are taking 2 to 3 years for completion. The concerned State/UT Governments are requested to furnish Progress Report every quarter. In case of undue delays further grants are withheld until utilisation of previous grants improves. In respect of other schemes, unspent balances are adjusted against the claims for the subsequent year.

Statement I

Details of Releases made to various States/UTs and Amount lying unspent during last three years under Scheme of Boys Hostel, Girls Hostel and Ashram Schools (Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of States/U.T.	Releases during 1995-96	Unspent amount of 1995-96	Releases during 1996-97	Unspent amount of 1996-97	Releases during 1997-98	Unspent amount of 1997-98
Andhra Pradesh	255.80	228.98	313.60	313.60	245.65	245.65
Assam	3.03	nil	35.00	16.00	nil	nil
Gujarat	nil	nil	21.60	21.60	nil	nil
Himachal Pradesh	6.50	6.50	nil	nil	30.00	30.00
Kerala	nil	nil	34.70	34.70	nil	nil
Madhya Pradesh	99.45	99.45	nil	nil	nil	nil
Manipur	nil	nil	68.75	nil	19.00	19.00
Meghalaya	27.50	nil	27.50	27.50	27.50	27.50
Orissa	182.55	71.00	150.00	40.50	130.00	130.00
Rajasthan	66.74	nil	33.37	33.37	150.165	150.165
Tamil Nadu	nil	nil	43.28	43.28	nil	nil
Tripura	96.20	nil	158.91	nil	125.96	125.96
Uttar Pradesh	nil	nil	nil	nil	11.165	11.165
West Bengal	135.49	135.49	nil	nil	nil	nil
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	85.00	85.00	nil	nil	nil	nil
Daman and Diu	20.00	0.24	nil	nil	20.00	20.00
J&K	36.75	36.75	17.22	17.22	nil	nil
Karnataka	nil	nil	13.25	13.25	42.495	42.495
Maharashtra	nil	nil	nil	nil	127.00	127.00